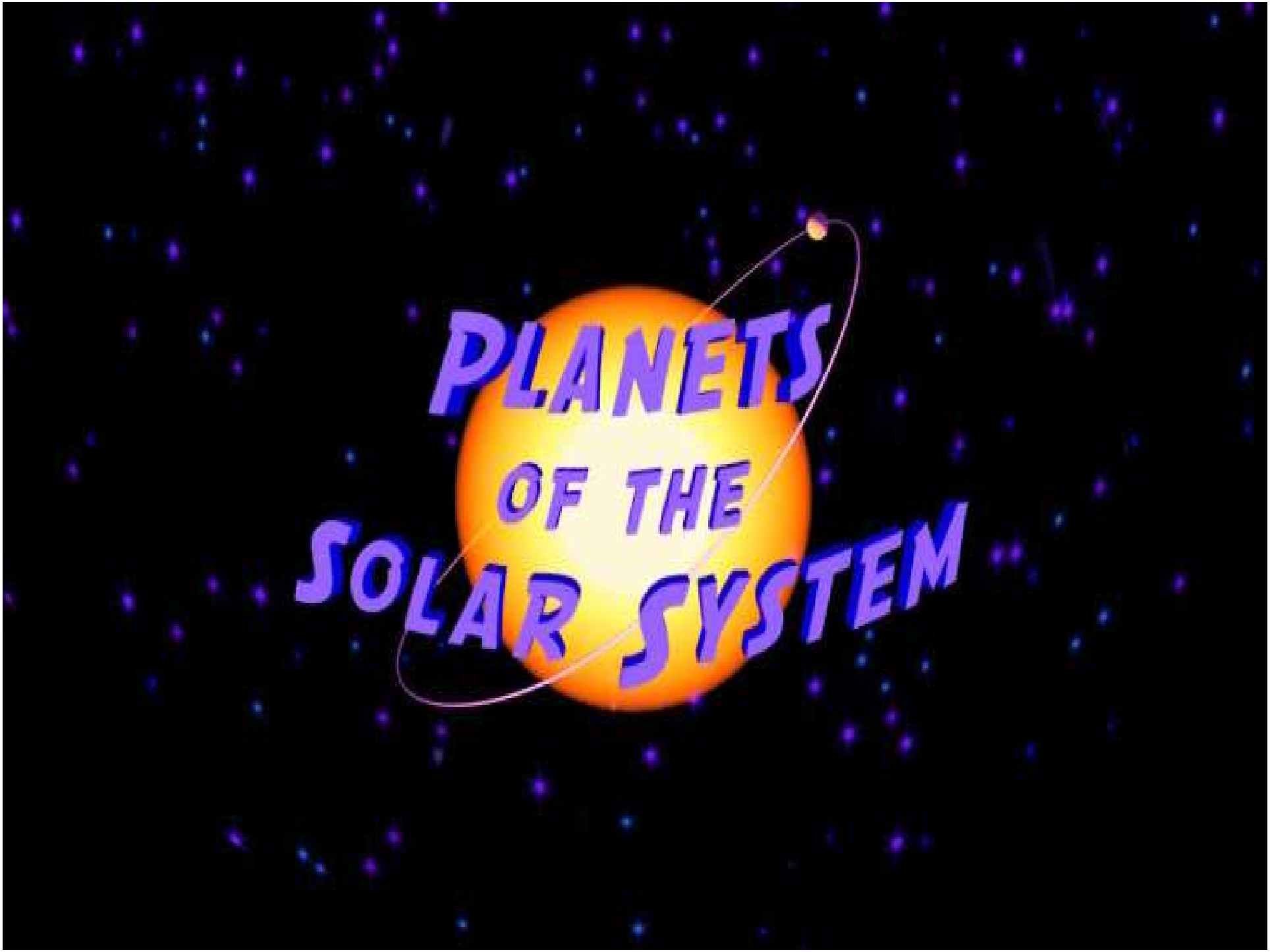
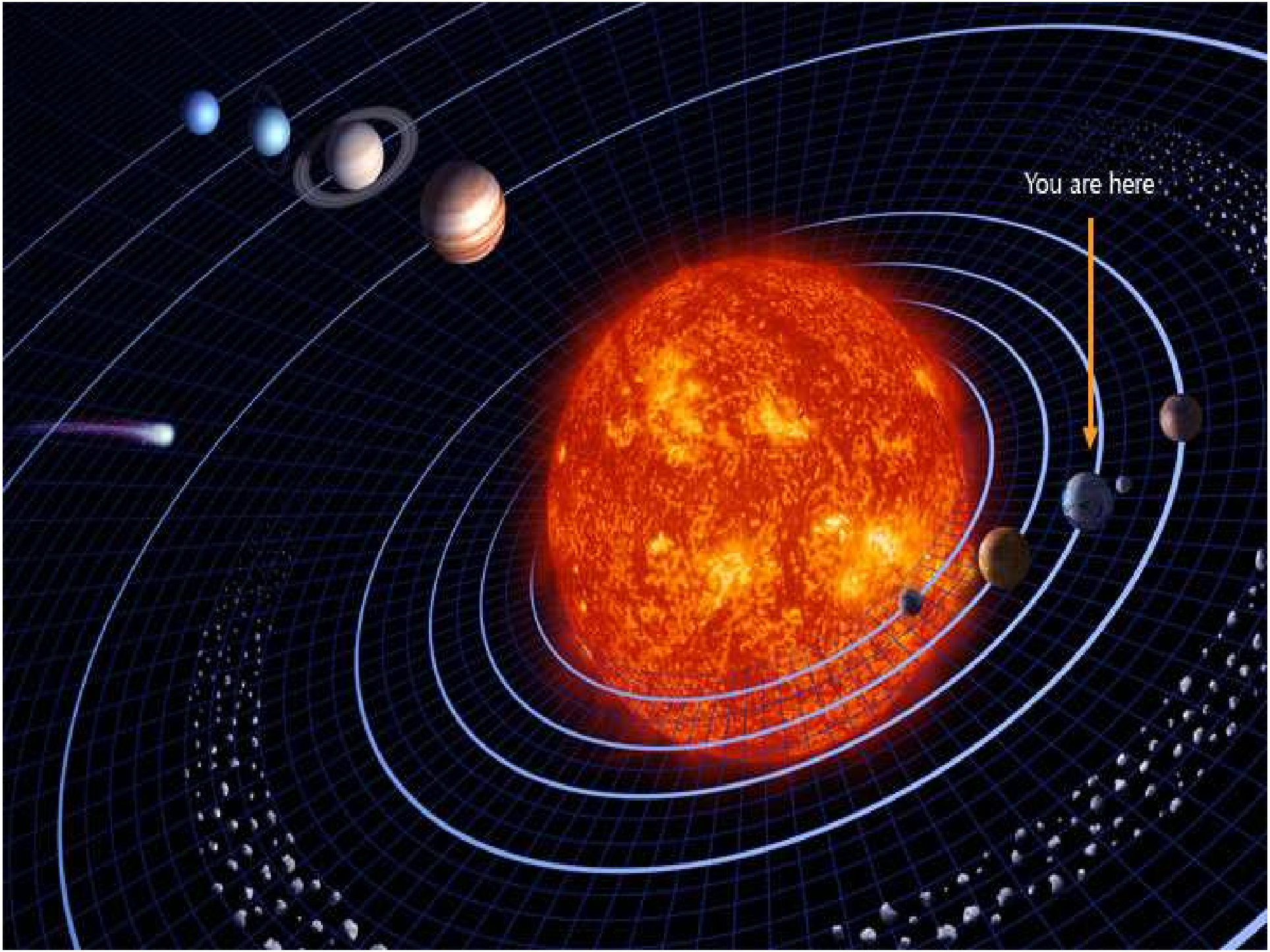

PLANETS
OF THE
SOLAR SYSTEM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POOR
PLUTO
MATHIASPEDERSEN.COM

Solar System Scoreboard

Planets: 8

The planet count in our solar system has gone as high as 15 before new discoveries prompted a fine tuning of the definition of a planet. The most recent change was in 2006 when scientists reclassified Pluto as a new kind of object – a dwarf planet.

Dwarf Planets: 5

This new class of worlds helps us categorize objects that orbit the Sun but aren't quite the same as the rocky planets and gas giants in our solar system. There could be hundreds more of these small worlds far out there waiting to be discovered.

Moons: 167

This count includes only the moons orbiting the eight planets in our solar system. It is likely there are more moons orbiting the giant planets of our solar system and also around tiny dwarf planets and asteroids.

Asteroids: 537,894

New asteroids are discovered on an almost daily basis. It is estimated that the mineral wealth of the asteroids in the main belt between Mars and Jupiter is about $100,000,000 for every person on Earth.

Comets: 3,063

Orbiting spacecraft such as SOHO have raised this tally in recent years by catching the comets as they plunge toward the Sun - and sometimes vaporize. Scientists estimate there could be as many as 1,000,000,000 comets held in the gravitational grip of the Sun.

Compare the Planets
More
Select a planet name from each column to compare their sizes.
Earth
Jupiter
DIAMETER
12756.28 km
142984 km
RATIO
1
11.21

To Do:

- Create a solar system with toilet paper (40 sheets required).
- Create a table/chart for the characteristics of the planets. Must include:
  - Planet Name
  - Planet picture/sketch (see textbook p.294-295)
  - Fast Facts from article
  - 5 interesting facts from the article

Planet (or Dwarf Planet)	Distance from the Sun (Astronomical Units= AU)
Mercury	0.4
Venus	0.7
Earth	1
Mars	1.5
Jupiter	5.2
Saturn	9.5
Uranus	19
Neptune	30
Pluto (a dwarf planet)	39.5